

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 2, 7-11, 14 and 20 are canceled without prejudice, claims 1, 3, 12 and 15-19 are amended, and no new claims are added. Applicant reserves the right to further prosecute the cancelled claims in future continuing applications.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. By this amendment, applicant has cancelled Claims 7-11 to overcome the Examiner's rejections.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-6, 12, 13, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 201 17 317 (Gebrauchsmusterschrift) in view of applicant's admitted prior art or vice versa. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 12 to recite limitations that were formerly recited in claims 2 and 14 respectively, which the Examiner has indicated are allowable. Claims 3-6 depend from claim 1 and should be patentable for the same reasons as indicated for claim 1. Claims 13 and 15-18 now depend from claim 12 and should be patentable for the same reasons as indicated for claim 12. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 14-18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the indication of allowable claims. As indicated above, claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include the limitations formerly found in claims 2 and 14 respectively.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul C. Onderick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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